

19th CONGRESS,
2d Session.

[Doc. No. 54.]

HO. OF REPS.

NAVY HOSPITALS.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF NAVAL HOSPITALS,

UPON THE

STATE OF THEIR FUNDS.

JANUARY 15, 1827.

Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

WASHINGTON :

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1827.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

15th January, 1827.

SIR : The Commissioners of the Navy Hospitals have had the honor to receive the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 6th January, 1827, directing them to report “the amount of the sums which they have received and expended, by virtue of the act entitled ‘an act establishing Naval Hospitals,’ the balance remaining in their hands on the 31st of December, 1826, designating the sum which has been absorbed in the pay of the Navy, and which is due to the ‘Naval Hospital Fund,’ and what measures they have adopted to carry into effect the provisions of the said act;” and respectfully make the following

REPORT :

That they have received the sum of	-	-	-	\$ 177,207 25
That they have expended	-	-	-	58,109 41
That there is now due to the Navy Hospital Fund,				
from the Pay of the Navy, the sum of	-	-	-	72,032 96
And that they have in the hands of the Treasurer of				
the United States, subject to their order,	-	-	-	119,097 84

Previous to the date of the report made by the Commissioners, on the 10th March, 1824, and to which they refer, (paper A.) there had been passed, on the books of the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, to the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund, \$ 191,701 67. By papers B, C, D, which are copies of statements of the Fourth Auditor, it appears that there was carried to the credit of the Fund, in the years 1824, 1825, and 1826, the sum of \$ 57,538 54 ; which, added to the sum mentioned in paper A, gives \$ 249,240 21, as the whole amount with which the Fund has been credited, up to the 31st December, 1826. This sum is \$ 72,032 96 greater than that which is stated to have been received by the Commissioners. The difference has been absorbed in the Pay of the Navy.

By the report of 10th March, 1824, (paper A.) it appears that the Commissioners had expended, previous to 30th September, 1821, \$ 10,652 85.

In September, 1823, they purchased a site for a Naval Hospital, at Chelsea, near the Navy Yard, in Charlestown, Massachusetts, which cost them \$ 18,228 48.

In May, 1824, they purchased a site for a Hospital, near the Navy Yard, at Brooklyn, New York, which cost \$ 7,911 75.

In June, 1826, they purchased a lot on which to erect an Asylum, near Philadelphia, which cost \$ 16,191 00.

Within the present month, they have contracted for some land adjoining Fort Nelson, near Norfolk, Virginia, to add to the ground on which the Fort stands, and which has been transferred from the War Department. On this site they propose, also, to build a Hospital.

In addition to these several sums, they have expended, for various purposes, incident to the management of the Fund, \$ 5,125 33. The whole being added together, make the amount \$ 58,109 41, before stated, as expended by them. This amount, deducted from \$ 249,240 21, the total sum to the credit of the Fund, leaves \$ 191,130 80, which ought now to be at the disposal of the Commissioners, to enable them to execute the purposes of their appointment. But such is not the fact, as the \$ 72,032 96, absorbed in the Pay of the Navy, is not under their control.

The Commissioners respectfully ask the attention of Congress to the following statement respecting the history of the Fund, the manner in which a portion of it has been absorbed in other objects, and the proper remedy for the grievance.

By the law, entitled "an act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen," passed the 16th of July, 1798, it was provided, that, after the 1st of September of that year, every master or owner of a vessel, arriving in any port of the United States, should render an account of the number of seamen employed in the vessel, and pay to the Collector at the rate of twenty cents per month for the time each of said seamen was so employed, retaining the same out of their wages: that the Collector should pay the money so received, to the *Secretary of the Treasury*; and that the President of the United States should, out of the same, provide for the temporary relief and maintenance of sick and disabled seamen, in Hospitals, or other proper institutions; that the surplus, if any remained, after this provision was made, should be invested in stock of the United States; and when a sufficient sum was accumulated, he should purchase and provide grounds and hospitals for the accommodation of sick and disabled seamen, and appoint directors of the hospitals, to govern them, under his instruction. A subsequent law directed the money to be expended, with some exceptions, in the State where it was collected, or in the adjoining State.

These provisions, which were originally designed only for the benefit of seamen employed in merchant vessels, were extended to the Navy, by "an act in addition to an act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen," passed 2d March, 1799. This law directed the Secretary of the Navy to deduct, after the 1st of September in that year, from the pay of each officer, seaman, and marine, the sum of twenty cents per month, and pay the amount, quarterly, to the Secretary of

the Treasury, to be applied to the same purposes to which the money collected under the former act was appropriated; and the officers, seamen, and marines, in the Navy, to enjoy the same benefits and advantages, as were by said law provided for the seamen employed in the merchant vessels of the United States. This last mentioned law continued in force until the 26th of February, 1811, when Congress thought proper to separate the military from the mercantile marine; the seamen employed in merchant vessels from those employed in the Navy, so far as related to this subject; and, therefore, passed the law establishing Navy Hospitals. By it, the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Treasury, and Secretary of War, were appointed a Board of Commissioners of Navy Hospitals; the money collected by virtue of the law of 2d March, 1799, to be paid to them, to constitute a Fund for Naval Hospitals.

During the period in which the law of 2d March, 1799, was in force, and operated upon the Navy, viz: from 1st September in that year, to 26th February, 1811, about twelve years, deductions were regularly made from the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines, and the amount carried to the credit of the Marine Hospital Fund in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury. Upon this fund, therefore, they had a perfect claim. It had been augmented by their pay, and for their benefit. It was just to them that their proper proportion of it should be handed over to the Commissioners of the Navy Hospitals, for their use. To have denied this would have been manifest injustice. Congress intended to secure their rights in this respect. What precise portion of the Marine Hospital Fund ought to have been assigned to them, it was probably difficult at that day, and would be impossible at this, to specify. The amount received from them, and the exact portion expended upon them, and for their benefit, were probably both uncertain. It was the will of Congress to decide that \$50,000 was their proper proportion: and by the act of 26th February, 1811, separating the two funds, that sum was appropriated out of the unexpended balance of the Marine Hospital Fund, and directed to be paid to the Commissioners, to form a part of the fund for the Navy Hospitals. This law, however, never has been executed; the payment never has been made. The sum of \$3,782 86 only has been delivered to the Commissioners; the balance remains to this day unsatisfied. The want of funds was the cause of this omission, as was stated in a report of the Commissioners, dated 15th January, 1818.

It is most respectfully suggested that this injustice ought no longer to exist. The money was taken from the pay necessary to the support and comfort of the officers, seamen, and marines of the Navy, by no act of theirs, but by the irresistible operation of a law of Congress; and it was taken under a pledge that it should be used for their benefit. It has not yet been so used; \$46,217 14 remains to be paid for their benefit. The Commissioners of Navy Hospitals, therefore, on their behalf, ask of Congress to make an appropriation to that amount, that it may be restored to a fund in which their comfort and happiness is so deeply interested.

It will also be perceived, by the laws before referred to, that this fund is created solely by the deduction of twenty cents per month. This deduction has been uniformly made in every case since 1st September, 1799. The amount arising therefrom previous to the passage of the act of 26th February, 1811, was supposed to be provided for in that act by the appropriation of the \$50,000 before mentioned. Since the 26th February, 1811, the amount deducted was not regularly carried to the Hospital Fund, and placed in the hands of the Commissioners until 1st January, 1824. During the war of 1812, and for several years after it, although it was taken from the officers, seamen, and marines, yet it was permitted to remain in the sums appropriated for the pay of the Navy, and expended for that or other objects. In this manner it is seen by paper A, that the sum of \$119,712 95 was absorbed previous to the 1st January, 1824. This operation was considered improper; and the Secretary of the Navy, on the 11th of March in that year, directed the Fourth Auditor to make a statement from the accounts of the disbursing officers in every quarter, that a requisition might be issued, and the amount carried to the proper fund, (see paper E.) Since that time, and in virtue of that order, the deductions made from the pay have been regularly added to the Hospital Fund, in the hands of the Treasurer of the United States, as agent of the Commissioners.

Since that period, also, various sums have, at different times, been paid to the Hospital Fund out of the Pay of the Navy; so that the latter was, on the first of this month, indebted to the former \$72,032 96. (see paper D.) This debt may possibly, in the course of several years, be satisfied out of the balances which shall remain of the Pay of the Navy; but the process must be slow and uncertain: and the Commissioners, therefore, again respectfully ask that an appropriation may be made, restoring it at once to the Hospital Fund. It has been heretofore represented to Congress, that the want of this money has prevented them from purchasing sites, erecting buildings, and otherwise performing the duties assigned to them by law; and it is a painful fact, that, although the law designed to provide hospitals, and an asylum for our seamen has been in operation nearly twenty-eight years, and deductions from their pay constantly made during all that time, yet, in consequence chiefly of the state of the funds, not one building for their accommodation and comfort has been erected. The effect upon the feelings of our officers and seamen may well be imagined. The Commissioners are assured that it has been one powerful cause of the difficulties sometimes encountered in procuring seamen for our public vessels.

It is thus shewn that the Commissioners now have \$119,097 84, which may be immediately used in executing the purposes of the law. If Congress appropriate the two sums, one of which has been expended on the Marine Hospitals, and the other absorbed in the Pay of the Navy, there will then be \$237,847 94 at their disposal; a sum sufficient to erect all the buildings which they deem necessary in the present state of the naval service.

“The measures adopted to carry into effect the provisions of the law,” may, in part, be seen in the preceding statement. In addition to which the Commissioners have, during the past year, caused a wharf to be built on the lot near Charlestown, Massachusetts, another on that near Philadelphia, made arrangements to build one at Brooklyn, New York, and caused other slight improvements to be made. They have also procured, with great care, from some of the most accomplished architects in our country, plans for the buildings which they suppose necessary at the places mentioned, keeping in view the improvements in such establishments in other countries, and the direction of the law “to regard economy. and give preference to such plans as, with most convenience and least cost, will admit of subsequent additions, as the funds will permit, and circumstances require.”

They have employed Mr. Strickland, a very skilful and experienced architect, to make the necessary contracts for materials, and superintend the building of a “permanent asylum for disabled and decrepid navy officers, seamen, and marines,” at Philadelphia; and Mr. Haviland, another skilful and experienced architect, to make the contracts for, and superintend the building of, a hospital near Norfolk, Virginia. Both the asylum and the hospital, they hope, will be completed within the next year, in a manner suited to the interesting nature of the works themselves, and to the obligations due to those out of whose funds the cost of their erection is to be defrayed.

They propose, also, to proceed with the hospitals at Charlestown and Brooklyn, as soon as the funds under their control will permit; and if the recommendations which they have suggested to pay to the fund what is really due to it, be adopted by Congress, they do not doubt that they will be able to complete all the hospitals mentioned in the course of the next two years.

Which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,
RICHARD RUSH,
JAMES BARBOUR.

To the Honorable the SPEAKER
Of the House of Representatives.

A.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

10th March, 1824.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 20th January, “That the Commissioners of the Navy Hospitals be directed to report to this House the amount of the sums which they have received and expended by virtue of the act, entitled ‘An act establishing Navy Hospitals,’ the balance remaining in their hands on the 31st of December, 1823, designating the sum which has

been 'absorbed in the Pay of the Navy, and which is due to the Hospital Fund;' and what measures they have adopted to carry into effect the provisions of said act;" we have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, marked A, with a statement of the accounts in the Auditor's office, marked B, shewing the receipts and disbursements of said fund up to the 31st December, 1823.

The law separating the Naval from the Marine Hospital Fund, was passed on the 26th February, 1811. On that day a balance of \$3,782 86, standing to the credit of the Marine Hospital Fund, was carried to the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund. This sum, with the deductions authorized by law, from the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines, constitutes the whole of the Navy Hospital Fund. These deductions have been regularly made whenever the officers, seamen, and marines, have received their pay, and the sums so deducted have been left in the "Pay of the Navy," which is of course responsible for them. They were not in the first instance drawn from the "Pay of the Navy" at the times in which they accrued, in consequence of the war, which succeeded the passage of the law, and were left in the same situation for several years afterwards.

By the report made on the 29th October, 1823, it appears that the balance to the credit of the fund at that time, was \$117,074 34; since which the deductions from the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines, and for which the "Pay of the Navy" is responsible, have amounted to \$2,638 61, making the Navy Hospital Fund, on the 31st December, 1823, amount to \$119,712 95, exclusive of the amount which has been under the control of the Commissioners.

After the establishment of the fund in February, 1811, and before the 30th September, 1821, the expenditures by the Commissioners amounted to \$10,652 85; since that time there has been drawn and placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the United States, subject to the orders of the Commissioners, \$43,335 87, and in September, 1823, \$18,000 were paid for a site for a Naval Hospital near the Navy Yard at Charlestown, Massachusetts. These three sums added together make \$71,988 72, which, added to the sum of \$119,712 95, for which the "Pay of the Navy" is responsible, makes \$191,701 67, being the whole amount of money which has accrued to the fund since its establishment.

From this statement it will be perceived that the only funds which the Commissioners can immediately control for the objects of the law, are those in the hands of the Treasurer, viz. 43,335 87. The debt due from the "Pay of the Navy" can only be paid as balances of the appropriations for that object shall remain at the end of the year; and as these appropriations are founded upon estimates, calculated with great care and accuracy, and are barely adequate to accomplish their object, it is manifest that it will be a long time before the fund is repaid, and the Commissioners will have the control of all the means which properly belong to it.

The delay will greatly postpone the accomplishment of the benevolent purposes of the law creating the fund, and do injustice to

those who have contributed to it, and who by the delay will be deprived of its benefits.

With a view to avoid the difficulties which have heretofore existed on this subject, an order has been given to the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, to make out, at the end of each quarter, from the returns of the disbursing officers, a statement of all moneys accruing to the Navy Hospital Fund during the quarter, and give a regular certificate of the amount, that a warrant may be issued for the same in favor of the Agent of the fund. By this means it will, at the end of each quarter, receive all the money to which it is entitled, and the "Pay of the Navy" will not become any further indebted to it.

In September, 1823, the Commissioners purchased a site for a Hospital adjoining the Navy Yard at Charlestown, Massachusetts, for which they paid \$18,000, and have made a contract for another site near the Navy Yard at Brooklyn. These are all the "measures they have adopted to carry into effect the provisions of the act."

Respectfully, &c.

WM. H. CRAWFORD,
J. C. CALHOUN,
SAM. L. SOUTHARD.

To the Hon. the SPEAKER

Of the House of Representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, 26th January, 1824.

SIR: In obedience to the request contained in your letter of the 21st inst. enclosing a resolution of the House of Representatives relative to the "Naval Hospital Fund" I have the honor to report;

That, from the 26th February, 1811, to the 31st December, 1823, there has been passed to the credit of said Fund on the books of this office, and those of the Accountant of the Navy, the sum of	-	-	\$ 187,918 81
To which must be added a balance standing to the credit of the "Marine Hospital Fund" on the 26th February, 1811, and carried to the credit of the "Naval Hospital Fund,"	-	-	3,782 86

\$ 191,701 67

From this sum is to be deducted amount of expenditures to 30th September, 1821,	\$10,652 85
Moneys drawn and placed in the hands of the Treasury of the United States	43,335 87

Moneys drawn in September, 1823, for the payment of
land purchased for a Naval Hospital site at Bos-
ton - - - - - 18,000 00

71,988 72

\$ 119,712 95

Leaving a balance to the credit of the "Naval Hospital Fund" on the books of this office, on the 31st December, 1823, of one hundred and nineteen thousand seven hundred and twelve dollars and ninety-five cents, the whole of which has been absorbed in the "Pay of the Navy," and for which the appropriation for that object is responsible.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

CONSTANT FREEMAN, *Auditor.*

HON. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,

Secretary of the Navy.

Dr.

NAVY HOSPITAL FUND.

Cr.

To balance due Navy Hospital Fund -	\$119,712 95 $\frac{5}{12}$	By balance standing at the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund on the 1st day of October, 1823, per report transmitted 29th October, 1823, -	\$117,074 34 $\frac{5}{12}$
-	-	By amount carried to the credit of said Fund, from 1st day of October to 31st day of December, 1823, -	2,638 61
-	-	-	\$119,712 95 $\frac{5}{12}$
-	-	By balance brought down -	\$119,712 95 $\frac{5}{12}$

[Doc. No. 54.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Fourth Auditor's Office, 26th January, 1824.*CONSTANT FREEMAN, *Auditor.*

B.

Dr.

NAVY HOSPITAL FUND.

Cr.

1824					
May 24	To requisition on the Treasury, No. 2,223, in favor of Thomas T. Tucker, for	-	\$ 5,353 74	By amount standing at the credit of Navy Hospital fund, per report transmitted 29th October, 1823,	-
July 14	Do requisition on the Treasury, for No. 2,418, in favor of Thomas T. Tucker, for	-	2,026 99	By amount carried to the credit of said fund, for 4th quarter 1823,	\$ 2,640 21
	To balance due Navy Hospital Fund	-	132,574 88	Amount credited in 1st quarter 1824,	12,238 74
				Do 2d do 1824,	2,026 99
				Do 3d do 1824,	5,975 33
					22,881 27
					\$ 139,955 61
			\$ 139,955 61	By balance to the credit of said fund on 30th September, 1824,	\$ 132,574 88

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, December 1, 1824.

T. WATKINS.

ABSTRACT OF MONEY carried to the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund, from the 1st day of October to the 31st day of December, 1824, viz :

For pay afloat,	-	-	-	\$ 2,001 23
For pay of Stations,	-	-	-	67 25
And for Marine Corps' pay,	-	-	-	48 29—2,116 77

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, February 9, 1825.

T. WATKINS.

C.

Dr.

NAVY HOSPITAL FUND.

Cr.

1825	To Requisitions on the Treasury, viz :		By amount standing at the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund on 31st December, 1824, -	\$ 128,698 58
Feb. 10	For Requisition No. 3,159, in favor of Thomas Tudor Tucker, Agent for N. H. Fund, -	\$ 2,116 77	By amount carried to the credit of said fund, viz :	
June 14	For Requisition No. 3,608, in favor of T. T. Tucker, Agent, - - -	8,229 60	From 1st January, to 31st March, 1825, incl. 1st April to 30th June, 1825, do.	8,229 60 3,722 56
Aug. 9	For Requisition No. 3,797, in favor of T. T. Tucker, Agent, - - -	3,722 56	1st July to 30th September, 1825, do.	2,797 66
Oct. 14	For Requisition No. 4,057, in favor of T. T. Tucker, Agent, - - -	2,797 66	1st October to 31st December, 1825, do.	5,135 60
29	For Requisition No. 4,103, in favor of Silas Butler, - - -	7,911 75		
Nov. 10	For Requisition No. 4,149, in favor of T. T. Tucker, - - -	6,885 00		
	To balance due Navy Hospital fund, - - -	\$ 116,920 66		\$ 148,584 00
		\$ 148,584 00	By balance due Navy Hospital Fund, - - -	\$ 116,920 66

[Doc. No. 54.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, 11th January, 1826.

T. WATKINS.

D.

DR.

NAVY HOSPITAL FUND in account with the United States.

CR.

1826				
Jan. 12	To Requisition on the Treasury, No. 4,298, in favor of Thomas Tudor Tucker, - - -	5,135 60	By balance due to Navy Hospital Fund, per state- ment transmitted January 11, 1826, - - -	\$ 116,920 66
April 7	Do. No. 4,515, in favor of do -	3,395 56	Amount passed to the credit of N. H. Fund, from 1st January, to the 31st	
June 20	Do. No. 4,775, do Geo. Har- rison - - -	16,191 00	March, 1826, - - -	3,395 56
July 12	Do. No. 4,839, in favor of T. T. Tucker, - - -	2,275 97	Do. from 1st April to 30th June, 1826, -	2,275 97
Oct. 16	Do. No. 5,113, in favor of T. T. Tucker, - - -	3,184 86	Do. from 1st July to 30th Sept. 1826, -	3,184 86
Dec. 6	Do. No. 5,248, in favor of T. T. Tucker, - - -	30,000 00	Do. from 1st Oct. to 31st Dec. 1826, -	6,438 90
				15,295 29
				\$ 132,215 95
	To balance due N. H. Fund on the 31st December, 1826, - - -	72,032 96		
		\$ 132,215 95	By balance standing to the credit of the Navy Hospital Fund, on the 1st January, 1827, -	\$ 72,032 96

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Fourth Auditor's Office, January 8, 1827.

T. WATKINS.

E.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

11th March, 1824.

SIR : At the expiration of each quarter, from the 1st of January, 1824, you will make out, from the returns of the disbursing officers, a statement of all moneys accruing to the Navy Hospital Fund, during the quarter, and give a regular certificate of the amount, that a warrant may be issued for the same, in favor of the agent of that fund.

I am, respectfully, &c.

SAML. L. SOUTHARD.

To the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury.

